

READING FIRST STATE BOARD CONTRACT ABSTRACT
CYCLE II – “EXPANDING” and CYCLE I “CONTINUING” LEAs

Proposed contract between the **State Board of Education**, acting for and on behalf of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE), and

Name of Contracting Party(ies):

Please refer to Page 1c. of this Contract Abstract for the **list** of eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) proposing *funding for continuing participation of CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING schools and expanding participation of NEW schools* in Arizona’s READING FIRST (RF) PROGRAM. Twenty-one (**21**) LEAs recently received technical review evaluations sufficiently high enough to be considered for continuing or expanding funding as a result of their submission of Reading First Subgrant Applications to the ADE in response to the prescribed competitive process.

Purpose:

To award READING FIRST PROGRAM funding under the established competitive process in the form of Cycle II – Year 1 Expanding Subgrant Awards and Cycle I – Year 4 Continuing Subgrant Awards to 21 local educational agencies, comprising 24 additional new high-need elementary schools and 61 continuing elementary schools. All participating RF Schools are afforded scientifically based Reading research (SBRR) treatment strategies and locally designed programs of teacher education and professional development. The number of funded classrooms may include as many as 2,200 teachers and other educators as well as 41,380 K–3 school pupils, respectively.

Note: LEAs may only apply for RF Subgrants to add new schools if they serve 25 percent, or more, of K–3 students reading below grade level where grade level is defined as “Meeting the Standard” relative to AIMS 3rd Grade Reading scores. Also, at least 19 percent of the students served by the LEA must reside in households with incomes below the poverty line. Lastly, eligible LEAs must meet at least one of the following criteria: they must have jurisdiction over a significant number or percentage of Title I Schools identified for School Improvement *or* a geographic area that includes a designated empowerment zone/enterprise community under Part 1 Chapter 1 Subchapter U of the Internal Revenue Code *or* the highest numbers/percentages of children who are counted under allocations for NCLB Title I, Part A.

Contract Amount:

Local educational agencies submitting Cycle II – Year 1 Expanding Subgrant Applications to add new schools developed a three-year budget, based on permissible costs; Cycle I – Year 4 Continuing Subgrant Applications to continue currently participating schools developed an annual budget, based on permissible costs and LEA matching funds. LEAs receiving technical review scores sufficiently high enough to enter into programmatic and budgetary negotiations with ADE staff were asked to further refine the dollar amounts requested. Starting with the highest scoring LEA, each “final” Subgrant Award amount was subtracted from the total of funds set aside under law for such purposes, until all available READING FIRST dollars were allocated.

The Reading First Program Office assures the U. S. Department of Education that it shall adhere to provisions under Section 1202(c)(2)(A) of NCLB Title I, Part B Subpart 1 regarding awards consistent with provisions for a Minimum Subgrant Amount.

Source of Funds:

Authorizing Legislation:	Federal Title I, Part B, Subpart 1 READING FIRST [P.L. 107-110]
Index No.(s):	62723

Responsible Unit at Department of Education:

SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS DIVISION

Program Director:	Marie Mancuso, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Program Contact:	Bruce Groll, Education Program Specialist

Dates of Contract:

LEA Subgrant Awards for Cycle II – Year 1 Expanding new schools shall become effective upon approval of the State Board and shall terminate on June 30, 2009.

Provided an LEA is in full compliance with the intent and provisions of the law, such school district or charter school shall be able to apply in each of three years, on an annual basis, for a READING FIRST PROGRAM subgrant award.

LEA Subgrant Awards for Cycle I – Year 4 Continuing currently participating schools shall become effective on July 1, 2006 and shall terminate no later than June 30, 2009.

Provided an LEA is in full compliance with the intent, provisions of the law and performance criteria, such school district or charter school may be able to apply in each of three years, on an annual basis, for a READING FIRST PROGRAM subgrant continuation award, *subject to the availability of funds*.

Explanation of Contract:

Previous Contract History

Expanding Cycle II – Year 1 LEAs (Additional New Schools)

The READING FIRST PROGRAM is authorized under P.L. 107-110. Arizona had not participated previously in this type of federal program. The state's Subgrant Application Process in Cycle II differs from the first competitive cycle only to the extent that a Pre-Application was not required of eligible LEAs. The total of available READING FIRST dollars for Cycle II – Year 1 Expanding Subgrant Awards to districts contemplating adding new schools was determined prior to the Technical Scoring of LEA Applications.

Expanding Cycle II LEAs adding new schools shall be funded to the extent of these available dollars. These currently participating expanding Cycle II districts do not compete for funding with Arizona's *New* Cycle II LEAs that are first-time participants in the Reading First Program. (Funding for these *New* Cycle II LEAs received approval from the State Board on April 24, 2006.)

Continuing Cycle I – Year 4 LEAs (Currently Participating Schools)

The READING FIRST PROGRAM is authorized under P.L. 107-110. Arizona had not participated previously in this type of federal program. The state's Subgrant Application Process for Continuing Cycle I – Year 4 LEAs requesting "sustainability funding" for currently participating schools required a detailed plan for continued RF Program implementation with fidelity and budget detailing the district's "cost sharing" contribution. Schools also must meet performance criteria demonstrating continuous improvement in K-3 reading scores. The total of available READING FIRST dollars for Cycle I – Year 4 Continuing Subgrant Awards to districts contemplating sustainability funding for currently participating Reading First schools was estimated prior to the Technical Scoring of LEA Applications based on the anticipated Reading First Subgrant appropriation to Arizona from the U.S. Department of Education and unexpended LEA carryover monies from the prior fiscal year (FY2006).

Continuing Cycle I – Year 4 LEAs funding for currently participating schools shall be awarded to the extent of these available dollars. These currently participating continuing Cycle I schools do not compete for funding with Arizona's *New* Cycle II LEAs that are first-time participants in the Reading First Program or the Expanding Cycle II LEAs adding new schools.

Method of Determining Contract Amount(s)

Final contract reimbursement ceilings for each Subgrant Application are sufficient to provide the services, support and assistance that are to be delivered to classroom teachers and other educators in eligible, participating schools throughout Arizona. Project ceilings have been set, following successful negotiations of both programmatic and fiscal issues, supported by detailed budgets that are prepared by the contracting parties, and reviewed and approved by ADE staff. Approved budgets shall be entered into the ADE's on-line Grants Management System.

Evaluation Plan

Arizona's READING FIRST PROGRAM Application to the U.S. Department of Education was posted on the *Arizona READS* Web Site following its approval. This document contains an extensively detailed Evaluation Plan, based on the highest rigor and quasi-scientific methodologies. P.L. 107-110 mandates the ongoing work of Program Evaluation by an "external" evaluator, working in conjunction with the ADE and its eligible, participating schools.

The following table provides the **list** of eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) that have submitted Subgrant Applications under the established competitive process and have been given technical review scores high enough to be considered for funding, based on the total of dollars allocated for “expanding” Cycle II – Year I and “continuing” Cycle I – Year 4 districts.

NAME OF THE APPLICANT LEA			SUBGRANT AWARD AMOUNT	
			[FINAL]	
			EXPANDING (NEW)	CONTINUING
Alhambra Elementary District			\$934,718	\$428,800
Casa Grande Elementary District			\$693,454	\$405,300
Crane Elementary District			\$443,338	\$408,300
Glendale Elementary District			\$229,346	\$247,300
Isaac Elementary District			\$620,259	\$348,000
Mesa Unified District			---	\$1,053,900
Nogales Unified District			---	\$434,686
Parker Unified District			---	\$97,200
Pendergast Elementary District			---	\$234,300
Red Mesa Unified District			---	\$163,000
Roosevelt Elementary District			---	\$619,200
Safford Unified District			---	\$106,482
Somerton Elementary District			---	\$379,648
Stanfield Elementary District			---	\$108,280
Sunnyside Unified District			\$778,535	\$421,380
Tempe Elementary District			\$218,404	\$820,105
Tolleson Elementary District			\$163,194	\$101,700
Tucson Unified District			\$649,451	\$932,011
Washington Elementary District			\$354,446	\$246,800
Wickenburg Unified Elementary			---	\$100,700
Yuma Elementary District			\$491,020	\$464,357
Total:			\$5,576,165	\$8,121,449
Estimated Impact of READING FIRST PROGRAM Awards				
LEAs	Expanding (New) Schools	Continuing Schools	Students	Teaching Staff
21	24	61	41,380	2,200

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